

WILDFIRE ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

WHAT WE HEARD

“ WE ARE SUPPOSED TO THINK THAT THE FORESTS WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ANY INTERVENTION. THEY ARE SIMPLY WRONG. AND IT IS PROVING ITSELF OVER AND OVER AGAIN. ”

“We are talking about broken systems and broken paradigms that do not serve our needs. The U.S. Forest Service is the largest land manager in Oregon and in the United States of America. They are not the largest landowners - the American people are. We can demand something different. We should expect something different.”

“They don’t care about our employees, they don’t care about our community, they want us out of the forests.”

“The wildfire crisis we are seeing now is a generation of forest policy coming to fruition.”

“When I first started in this business in the 1970s, 90% of the work I did was fuel mitigation. Now, 90% of the work I do is fire suppression.”

“This (let it burn) philosophy on our federal forests is not only passing the risk to our private forestland owners but to the next generation. Our Cascades are a sea of gray.”

“Simply put, we have too many trees and have exceeded a balanced and healthy carrying capacity for our forest lands.”

“We now manage our forests through courts instead of foresters and that is a huge mistake.”

Describing the challenges faced by Oregonians who have lost everything after a fire:

“The best way I can describe it is someone handing you a 2,000-piece puzzle that is blank, with no corners. Where do you start?”

WHAT WE LEARNED

- **Although Douglas County is the Timber Capital of the World, the region is still having to import wood to meet the demand.**
 - *“We consume more logs in this region than what the region produces.”*
- **Five mills have closed in Oregon since the start of 2024 due to heightened regulations on Oregon’s forests, resulting in a total loss of 326 jobs.**
 - Banks (Hampton Lumber) = 58 Jobs Lost
 - Springfield (Rosboro) = 25 Jobs Lost
 - Riddle (C&D Lumber Co.) = 93 Jobs Lost
 - Philomath (Interfor) = 100 Jobs Lost
 - Prairie City (Prairie Wood Products) = 50 Jobs Lost
- **For every job an Oregon mill supplies, five other jobs are supported in the industry, including truck drivers, equipment operators, and loggers.**
- **The epicenter of Oregon’s wildfire crisis is on BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and O&C Lands.**
 - *“Over the last decade, we have had 50,000 acres impacted from fires coming off of public lands.”*
 - *Roseburg Forest Products*
- **This is a stark contrast to the State of Oregon’s response on state forest lands which puts out 98% of its fires at 10 acres or less.**
 - *“Every wildland firefighter in the State of Oregon is required to complete and pass a course (developed and supported by the National Wildfire Coordination Group) for each level of qualification.”*

IN 2023, OREGON'S FOUR LARGEST WILDFIRES WERE ALL ON FEDERALLY MANAGED LANDS:



FLAT FIRE

34,242 acres, near Agness and Gold Beach
\$75 million

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest



BEDROCK FIRE*

31,590 acres, near Springfield-Eugene
\$67 million

Willamette National Forest



LOOKOUT FIRE

25,754 acres, near McKenzie Bridge
\$88 million

Willamette National Forest



ANVIL FIRE

22,170 acres, near Port Orford
\$55 million

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

TOTAL = \$285 MILLION

Note: The Bedrock Fire from this past summer was burning in two previous fire scars - one from 2021, and one from 2017.

For comparison, Oregon recently spent \$265 million on Measure 110 grants from the Oregon Health Authority.

PRIVATE LAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH AFTER A WILDFIRE



A Wildfire occurs on privately managed land.



Every effort is made to put out the fire.



The area impacted by fire is harvested within 12 months to limit disease and rot.



The harvested wood is trucked to local mills.



The wood is processed at the local mill, supporting family wage jobs.



The wood produces wood products utilized in local communities.



The impacted land is replanted right away.

Based on timber industry averages, if timber cannot be harvested to offset costs following a fire, replanting can cost up to **\$1,000-1,500 an acre.**

Replanted areas are not harvested for up to 40 years.

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH AFTER A WILDFIRE



A wildfire occurs on federal land.



The dead timber is routinely left standing and is not salvaged.



Due to federal roadless rules, the road into this land remains closed.



Another fire occurs in the same fire scar. The dead timber that was never removed burns twice as fast.



The dead timber poses a risk for recreationists and future fire suppression efforts.

As a result of the “Roadless Rule” which has been in effect for 23 years, the U.S. Forest Service decommissions between 1,000 to 2,000 miles of forest roads every year. (AFRC)

“We now manage our forests through courts instead of foresters and that is a huge mistake.”

HOW YOU CAN HELP



STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED - FEDERAL ISSUES

Stay up to date on the issues related to our federal forests through the American Forest Resource Council.

Contact your federal elected officials in Washington D.C. to let them know you support active forest management as a means of wildfire prevention, and post-fire harvest to keep our forests healthy for generations to come.



FIND OUT WHO REPRESENTS YOU IN WASHINGTON D.C.



STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED - STATE ISSUES

Stay up to date on the issues related to our state - and privately-owned forests through the Oregon Forest Industries Council.

Contact your state elected officials in the Oregon Legislature to let them know you support active forest management as a means of wildfire prevention, and post-fire harvest to keep our forests healthy for generations to come.



FIND OUT WHO REPRESENTS YOU IN THE OREGON LEGISLATURE.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Working in the forestry industry? Have you been impacted by changes to this sector? Impacted by fire?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY.



CONTACT US HERE.